

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections made in the mentioned office action is requested.

The alleged indefinitenesses have now been rendered moot by the claim amendments made above. No change in scope has been effected and the changes are merely somewhat different phrasings of the same concepts.

The claims have further been clarified to recite what was inherent in them since the beginning, i.e., that the two involved gradient pulses (spatial coding gradient pulses and “additional” flow-related gradient pulses) occur at the same time. This has always been a requirement of the claims in view of the expression “is added” and the basis for the arguments made in the response of July 6, 2006. Thus, no change in scope has been effected.

This overlap in time, as previously indicated, can be seen, e.g., by reference to Figure 2C, in conjunction with the explanations given on pages 22, 23 and 26. Note that on the latter page, in conjunction with the explanation of Figure 2C, it is expressly stated that the two gradient pulses “are used at the same time for imaging and suppressing moving MR signal carriers.” This is to be contrasted with the Foo et al. disclosure which perhaps can best be seen from its Figures 4 and 6. In Figure 4, the flow sensitive gradients 162, 164 and 166 are shown in time at different points from the phase and coding gradients 170, 172 and 176. See, e.g., column 8, line 41-column 9, line 18. In Figure 6, the flow sensitizing gradients 242, 244 and 246 are shown in time to be at a point different from the other involved gradients, including phase encoding gradients 252 and 254. See column 11, lines 1-15.

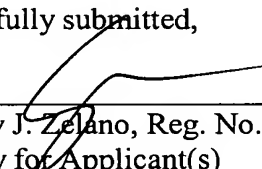
As can be seen, this timing aspect is highly distinct from Foo et al. and there can be no anticipation. Moreover, Foo et al. gives no hint at modifying its gradient timing aspects in any way to arrive at the claimed invention. Thus, clearly all the claims are not obvious for at least this reason.

Moreover, all the examiner has done in the last office action is verbatim reiterate what has been stated before. Applicants have not been provided their due benefit of an explanation from the PTO as to why its previous arguments were found insufficient. Given this additional clarification by applicants, if the examiner for some reason does not allow the claims of this

application, the PTO is urged to provide the requisite explanation on the record as to why it is maintaining the rejection despite the differences between art and the invention as mentioned above.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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